

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKART 04313 041135Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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R 040830Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7891
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL MEDAN
AMCONSUL SURABAYA
USICA WASHDC
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 4313

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINT, PINS, ID SOPN
SUBJECT: MORE STUDENT RELEASES

REF: JAKARTA 4090 (DTG 300926Z MAR 78)

1. SUMMARY: THE GOVERNMENT CLAIMS THAT ALL BUT ABOUT
60 STUDENTS ARRESTED SINCE JANUARY 20 HAVE BEEN RELEASED.
THOSE STUDENTS STILL HELD, PLUS 40-100 NON-STUDENT
DETAINEES, WILL BE TRIED. DETAINEES INTERVIEWED BY THE PRESS
STATED THAT CONDITIONS OF DETENTION HAVE BEEN GOOD, WITH
SOME RESERVATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. COMMANDER OF KOPKAMTIB ADM. SUDOMO TOLD THE PRESS
ON APRIL 3 THAT ALL BUT ABOUT 60 OF THE STUDENTS ARRESTED
FOR DISSIDENT ACTIVITIES SINCE JANUARY 20 HAVE BEEN
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PAGE 02 JAKART 04313 041135Z

RELEASED, THOUGH NOT ALL OF THE RELEASES HAVE BEEN
UNCONDITIONAL. IN SURABAYA, FOR EXAMPLE, 35 STUDENTS
RELEASED ON MARCH 31 ARE REQUIRED TO REMAIN IN THE CITY
AND REPORT REGULARLY TO SECURITY OFFICIALS. AT LEAST
SOME OF THE JAKARTA RELEASEES ALSO HAVE TO REPORT DAILY
TO THE LOCAL SECURITY COMMAND (LAKSUS). AMONG THE
PROMINENT RELEASEES WERE WIMAR WITOELAR, A TEACHER AT THE

BANDUNG TECHNICAL INSTITUTE (ITB), AND AGUS ALI, EDITOR OF THE SURABAYA PAPER MINGGUAN MAHASISWA (UNIVERSITY STUDENTS WEEKLY.)

3. ACCORDING TO SUDOMO, THE 60-OR-SO STUDENTS STILL HELD, PLUS SOME 40-100 NON STUDENT DETAINEES -- MOST ALLEGED MUSLIM EXTREMISTS ARRESTED ON MARCH 20-21 FOR FIREBOMBING ACTIVITIES -- WILL BE TRIED SHORTLY. AS BEFORE, SUDOMO REFUSED TO SPECIFY THE CHARGES TO BE BROUGHT AGAINST THE DETAINEES, BUT ALL ARE LIKELY TO BE TRIED UNDER INDONESIA'S BROAD ANTI-SUBVERSION LAWS.

4. TWO GROUPS OF THOSE TO BE TRIED FROM THE LARGEST OF THE JAKARTA DETENTION CENTERS -- CALLED THE "YELLOW CAMPUS" BY THE DETAINEES THEMSELVES -- WERE PERMITTED TEMPORARY RELEASE TO ATTEND, RESPECTIVELY, EASTER AND FRIDAY MOSQUE SERVICES, DEPENDING ON THEIR RELIGION. REPORTERS WERE ALLOWED TO TALK TO THE DETAINEES ON BOTH OCCASIONS, IN THE PRESENCE OF SECURITY OFFICIALS.

5. AMONG THE ISLAMIC GROUP WERE TWO OF THE MOST PROMINENT DETAINEES, ARIEF RACHMAN, WHO IS A TEACHER AT THE JAKARTA STATE TEACHERS TRAINING INSTITUTE (IKIP) AND THE HOST (UNTIL HIS ARREST) OF A POPULAR TELEVISED ENGLISH LANGUAGE COURSE, AND DIPO ALAM, FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF INDONESIA (UI) STUDENT COUNCIL. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 JAKART 04313 041135Z

RACHMAN, WHO WAS RUMORED TO HAVE BEEN TORTURED AND DIED WHILE IN DETENTION, WAS IN APPARENT GOOD HEALTH AND INDICATED HE FELT FINE. HE EXPRESSED BITTERNESS TOWARD THOSE WHO SPREAD RUMORS OF HIS DEATH BECAUSE OF THE WORRY CAUSED HIS FAMILY, SAYING "DEATH IS NOT SOMETHING TO BE PLAYED WITH". WHILE INDICATING HE WAS BEING TREATED WELL, HE DID COMPLAIN THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN PERMITTED TO SEE HIS FAMILY SINCE HE WAS ARRESTED IN EARLY FEBRUARY AND WAS PERMITTED TO WRITE TO THEM ONLY ONCE (UNTIL RECENTLY TWICE) A WEEK, THROUGH LAKSUS. HE ALSO NOTED HE WAS PERMITTED TO READ NEWSPAPERS FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE HIS ARREST ONLY TWO DAYS BEFORE MEETING THE PRESS. THE USUALLY OUTSPOKEN DIPO REPEATED RACHMAN'S COMPLAINT ABOUT DENIAL OF COMMUNICATIONS WITH HIS FAMILY AND IMPLICITLY ADDED THAT THE CHARGE OF AT LEAST SOME INITIAL ILL-TREATMENT, SAYING THAT "OUR TREATMENT IS MUCH BETTER NOW THAN WHEN WE WERE FIRST ARRESTED."

6. THE GOVERNMENT, CLAIMING THAT IT HAS NO DESIRE TO "KILL" THE LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS OF THE STUDENTS, HAS INDICATED IT MIGHT SOON REACTIVATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT COUNCILS, SUSPENDED SINCE LATE JANUARY. SUDOMO LAST

WEEK SAID HE HAS NO OBJECTION TO RENEWED STUDENT COUNCILS
ACTIVITY, AS LONG AS THERE IS A "GUARANTEE" THE COUNCILS
WILL NOT BE USED FOR "PRATICAL POLITICS." SUDOMO SUBSEQUENTLY
MET WITH NEW MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE DAOED JOESOEF,
ANNOUNCING AFTERWARDS THAT HE HAD TURNED OVER FULL
AUTHORITY TO REACTIVATE THE STUDENT COUNCILS TO JOESOEF.
MEANWHILE, THE UI RECTOR AND CHAIRMAN OF THE ITB
RECTORIUM HAVE PUBLICLY CALLED FOR THE IMMEDIATE REACTIVATION OF
THE COUNCILS, TO FACILITATE STUDENT-ADMINISTRATION
COMMUNICATIONS. THE ITM OFFICIAL ALSO TOOK THE OCCASION
TO REPORT THAT 90 PERCENT OF ITB'S UPPERCLASSMENT HAVE NOW
REGISTERED AND THE REMAINING 10 PERCENT WILL BE WELCOMED "WITHOUT
SANCTION" WHEN THEY CHOOSE TO REGISTER.

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PAGE 04 JAKART 04313 041135Z

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